



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

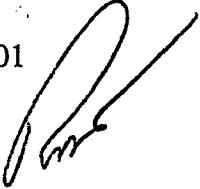
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Memorandum

Date: December 16, 1997

To: Richard L. Elliott, Regional Manager
Department of Fish and Game
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001

From: Rick Woodard
Water Quality 

Subject: Comment letter of August 15, 1997

Thank you for your August 15, 1997 comments on the August 7, 1997 draft report "CALFED Water Quality Program Component Report." Please accept my apology for the extremely late response; our draft response was misplaced and only recently did it come to our attention that it had not gone out.

In the report, copper effects in the Sacramento River were chosen as an example to illustrate the concept that, in general, much remains to be known about toxicity mechanisms in tributaries to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary. A better example could have been used and, in fact, the Department has suggested better choices that we intend to adopt instead. While we continue to believe much is yet to be learned about toxicity problems in Delta tributaries, there was not an intention to suggest that there is weakness in the linkage between the presence of copper in the upper Sacramento River and toxicity to aquatic organisms that inhabit affected streams. On the contrary, we fully agree there is a very long history and well documented history of cause and effect.

The purpose of this draft report was to provide our Water Quality Technical Group with information on the development of the water quality program to date. Your comments and those of other reviewers will be embodied in the water quality appendix to the CALFED Programmatic EIS/EIR that is under preparation. We look forward to working with your staff to produce an adequate report, and appreciate your efforts to assist us.

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service